

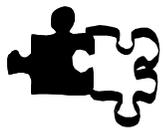
Inspired by the Flag

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter Grades Two and Three



OBJECTIVES

Students will understand how symbols can inspire artists. Students will demonstrate how to compare and contrast. Students will write expository sentences.



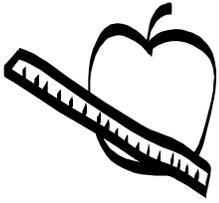
SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Social Studies
- Language Arts
- Art



SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the “Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter” page. Locate this national site on a class map. Note its position in relation to your school’s location. Tell the students that the front of a coin is called the “obverse” and the back is called the “reverse.” Explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 designs. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory and the District of Columbia.
2. Ask the students to work with a partner to brainstorm a list of places where they often see the American flag. For example, flags can often be found at schools, businesses, homes, cemeteries, government buildings, sporting events, on lapel pins and at Fourth of July and Memorial Day celebrations. Record student responses on a class chart. Lead a discussion about why these places display the American flag and what students think or feel when they see one.
3. Locate an age-appropriate text that gives information about the American flag. As a class, preview the text and illustrations to generate observations about what is occurring at different points in the text. Read the selected text aloud to the class and attend to any unfamiliar vocabulary.
4. Tell the students that the sight of the American flag flying over Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words to our national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Review the meaning of the word “inspired.” Locate and play a recording of the “Star-Spangled Banner.” Ask the students to share what they already know about the song, when they have heard this song before and what images come to mind when they listen to the song.
5. Locate images of the contemporary American flag and the flag that Francis Scott



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Key saw at Fort McHenry. Compare and contrast these two versions of the American flag and encourage the students to note how the flag has changed over time. Draw a Venn diagram or T-chart on the board to guide this comparison activity.

6. Just as Francis Scott Key was inspired by the flag, encourage the students to consider how they are personally inspired by the American flag. Introduce the students to the “Inspired by the Flag” worksheet. Review the directions together and have the students complete the worksheet. Have students share their writing and pictures.
7. If desired, extend this activity by having the students conduct interviews with classmates, friends, family or community members about how they are inspired by the American flag. Additionally, consider inviting a veteran or active member of the United States military to speak to the class about how they are inspired by the American flag.



ASSESSMENTS

- Take anecdotal notes about the students’ participation in class discussions and activities.
- Evaluate the students’ worksheets for understanding of the lesson objectives.
- Use the “Inspired by the Flag Checklist” to assess students’ work.



RESOURCES

- Worksheets:
 - “Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter”
 - “Inspired by the Flag”
 - “Inspired by the Flag Checklist” (1/2 page per student)
- An age-appropriate text that gives information about the American flag, such as:
 - *F Is For Flag* by Wendy Cheyette Lewison
 - *The Story of the Star Spangled Banner* by Patricia A. Pingry
 - *The Flag We Love* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- Age-appropriate, relevant Web sites, such as:
 - National Parks Service: www.nps.gov/index.htm
 - Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine: www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm
 - Smithsonian Museum, “The Star-Spangled Banner”: amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/default.aspx
 - United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program lesson plans: www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/lessonPlans/atb/

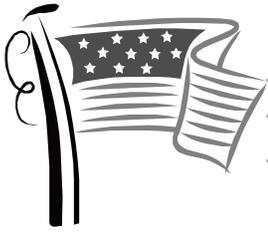


Name _____

Inspired by the Flag

Directions: How are you inspired by the American flag? Use the space below to describe how the flag inspires you. Include at least one example of a time you were inspired by the flag. Draw a picture showing what the flag means to you.





Name _____

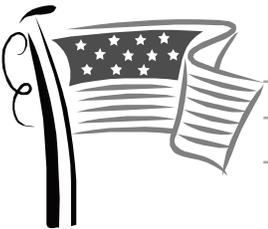
Inspired by the Flag Checklist



This student:

- Wrote several sentences about how the flag has inspired them.
- Provided at least one example of a time they were or are inspired by the flag.
- Drew a picture illustrating their inspiration by the flag.
- Used creativity in their illustration.

Notes:



Name _____

Inspired by the Flag Checklist



This student:

- Wrote several sentences about how the flag has inspired them.
- Provided at least one example of a time they were or are inspired by the flag.
- Drew a picture illustrating their inspiration by the flag.
- Used creativity in their illustration.

Notes:



Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter



The United States of America

